

Animals - Coyote

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Duxbury Clipper

Coyote Attack Reported - Officials Urge Safeguards

A pack of three coyotes recently killed a dog on Maple Pond Lane, and police and local veterinarians are advising families to take steps to safeguard children and pets.



Most coyote attacks occur during dawn and dusk, officials said. The coyote attack on Maple Pond Lane occurred at approximately 4 am.

"Dawn and dusk is when coyotes hunt," said Susan Santamaria from Duxbury Animal Hospital. "You may see them during the day as well, but they are usually not hunting then."

Santamaria advises that all dogs under twenty pounds be walked on a leash, and that even large dogs should be walked instead of let out on their own.

"If the coyotes are in packs of three or more, they will attack larger dogs," Santamaria said. She also said that coyotes will watch a particular house and learn routines if a dog is let out at the same time every day.

Officials also urge that children be watched at all times, and cats should be kept inside as much as possible.

"If the cats have to go out, at least try to get them in before dinner time," advised Santamaria, who says the hospital has lost many cat clients to coyotes.

Fish and Wildlife officials also suggest making noise when outside after dusk, and securing food supplies and trash.